

# Greenways and Trails: What are they?



# What is a Greenway?

A Greenway is:

- Linear open space established along a natural or man made corridor.
- Examples:
  - Riverfront.
  - Stream valley.
  - Ridgeline.
  - Or even overland along a utility or railroad corridor converted for recreational use

Greenways for America, by Charles Little, 1990.



# TN River Gorge





# Richland Creek Greenway Corridor





# Six Types of Greenways

- ✓ Urban Riverside (or other body of water)
- ✓ Corridors used for Non Motorized Transportation
- ✓ Recreational greenways featuring paths or trails
- ✓ Ecologically significant natural corridors
- ✓ Scenic and historic routes
- ✓ Comprehensive linear system or network within a city, city/county or region.





# Knoxville TN River Greenway



8/20/2007



# Trails

- ✓ Greenways and trails are not synonymous.
- ✓ Trails differ in that they are primarily pathways.
- ✓ Most Greenway trails are generally constructed of concrete and asphalt and are used by bicyclists and pedestrians.
- ✓ Trails also can have natural surfacing such as soil or mulch.





# Richland Creek Greenway Trail Surface (concrete and paved)







# Richland Creek Greenway Trailhead





# Greenway Trail – Arlington, TN





# Types of Trails

- Equestrian Trails
- Accessible Trails
- Walking/Fitness Trails
- Bicycle Trails
- Hiking Trails
- Motorized Trails
- Water Trails
- Nature Trails
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Rails-to-Trails
- Rails-with-Trails
- Historic Trails





# Accessible Trails





# Accessible Trails







# Erin Rail to Trail project







# Greenway Trail – Arlington, TN





# Benefits of Greenways & Trails

- ✓ Health & Fitness
- ✓ Non-Motorized Transportation
- ✓ Outdoor Recreation
- ✓ Growth Mgmt.
- ✓ Convenient Access
- ✓ Water Quality
- ✓ Air Quality
- ✓ Forest Protection
- ✓ Wildlife Habitat
- ✓ Scenic Quality
- ✓ Environmental Education



# Richland Creek Greenway Trail







# Economic Benefits of Greenways

- ✓ Quality of Life
- ✓ Expenditures by Residents & Tourism
- ✓ Commercial Uses
- ✓ Property Values Often Increase
- ✓ Public Cost Reduction
- ✓ Corporate Relocation
- ✓ Stimulate Reinvestment in Once Blighted Areas



# Maryville – Ruby Tuesday's



“ the Specific site (for the new headquarters) was chosen in downtown Maryville primarily due to its location on the beautiful Greenbelt and trail system,” said Sandy Beal, Chairman and CEO, Ruby Tuesday, Inc.



# Greenways and Trails

- ✓ Can reduce energy consumption by reducing automobile use
- ✓ Create green transportation routes which reduces traffic congestion and parking needs
- ✓ Greater value per acre for parks/open space
- ✓ Can reduce the impacts of flooding
- ✓ Can reduce storm water runoff and sediment loss resulting in lower water treatment costs
- ✓ Can reduce air pollution





# Tourism

- ✓ Greenways are often major tourist attractions; which generate expenditures on lodging, food and recreation-oriented services. Example is the Virginia Creeper Trail in VA.
- ✓ Greenways also help improve the overall appeal of a community to prospective tourists and new residents.

Source: Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design, and Development. By: Charles Flink and Robert Searns

The Conservation Fund



# How to Start a Greenway Project

- ✓ Form a coalition, committee or support group of residents and community leaders representing diverse interests.
- ✓ Define your community's vision for Greenways and Trails
- ✓ Evaluate opportunities and realities – consider costs, political support, ownership, scale of project, operation and maintenance.



# How to Start a Greenway Project

(continued)

- ✓ Evaluate your community needs - recreation, transportation, parks, open space, etc.
- ✓ Inventory the community for greenway and trail opportunities and identify potential areas.
- ✓ Establish a pilot project that is feasible and can be built in a year or less. Select land that is already publicly owned or easy to acquire without opposition.





# How to Start a Greenway Project

(continued)

- ✓ Prepare a Concept Plan and market it to build grass roots community support.
- ✓ Identify who will manage and maintain project.
- ✓ Secure easements and acquisitions if possible prior to announcing the specific route of the project to the public.
- ✓ Seek partnerships, sponsors and grants.
- ✓ If the trail is built, Market it to maximize use.



## What NOT to Do

- ✓ Identify corridors for trail development on private property prior to acquisition or securing easements and support.
- ✓ Identify corridors on public property without involving and getting approval from the land management agency.



# Community Involvement

- ✓ County/City Leaders
- ✓ Planning Department
- ✓ Chamber/Civic Groups
- ✓ Park & Recreation Dept.
- ✓ Garden Clubs





# Community Involvement

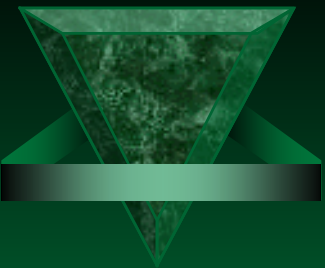
(continued)

- ✓ Urban Forester/ Dept. of Agriculture
- ✓ Outdoor Clubs
- ✓ Trail Organizations
- ✓ Universities
- ✓ THE PUBLIC!



# Getting the Most out of Greenways

- ✓ Focus greenway development along existing natural or cultural features such as rivers, scenic highways, etc.
- ✓ Create connections!  
Make more than a trail or greenway!
- ✓ Make it functional – transportation connections will increase use.

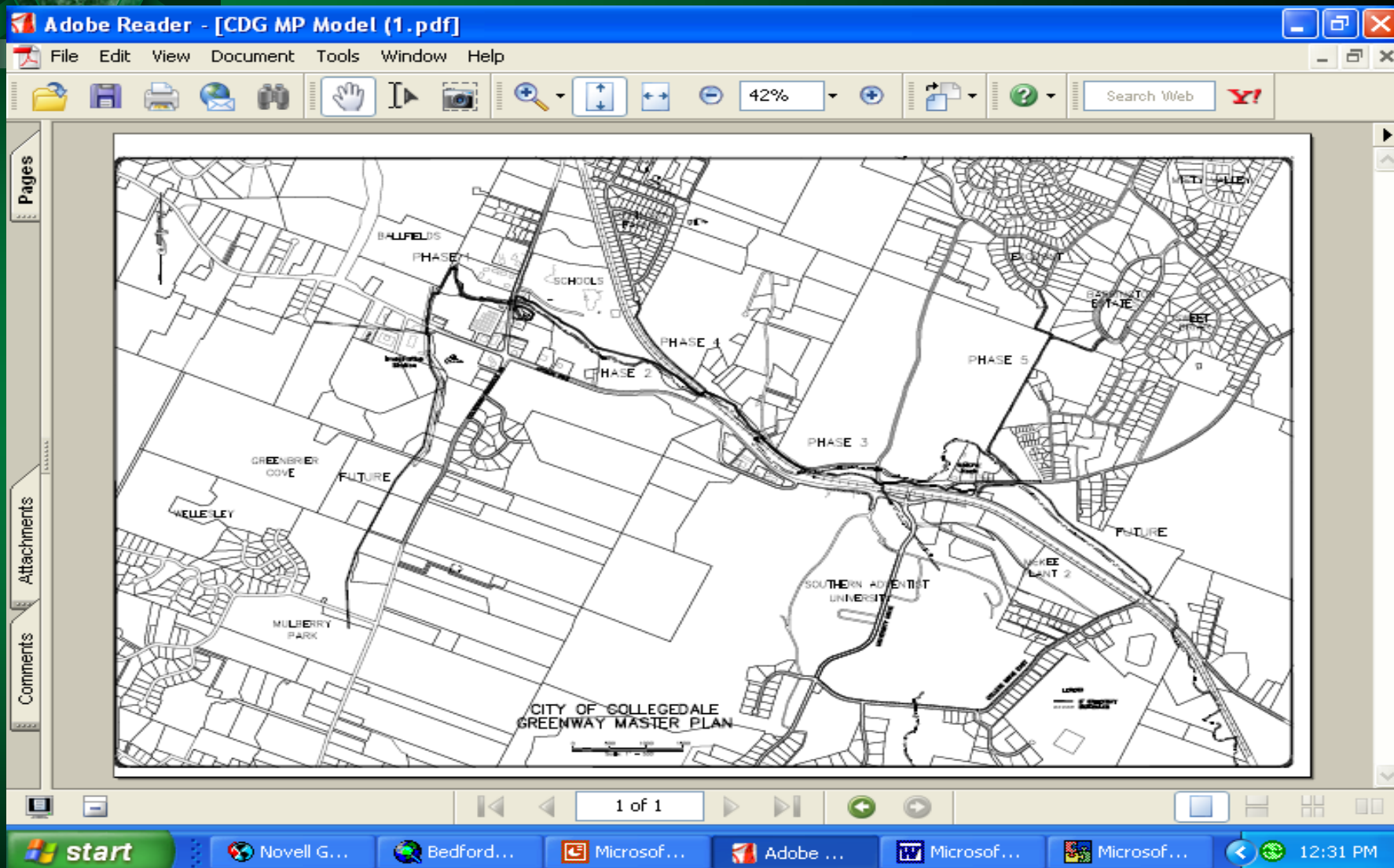


# Getting the Most out of Greenways

(continued)

- ✓ Locate trails in areas where they will be used.
- ✓ Enhance natural beauty of area, instead of clearing land.
- ✓ Establish a “Friends” group to patrol and aid in maintenance of trails.
- ✓ **Market your trail** - organize fitness walks, environmental education day, and utilize the media.





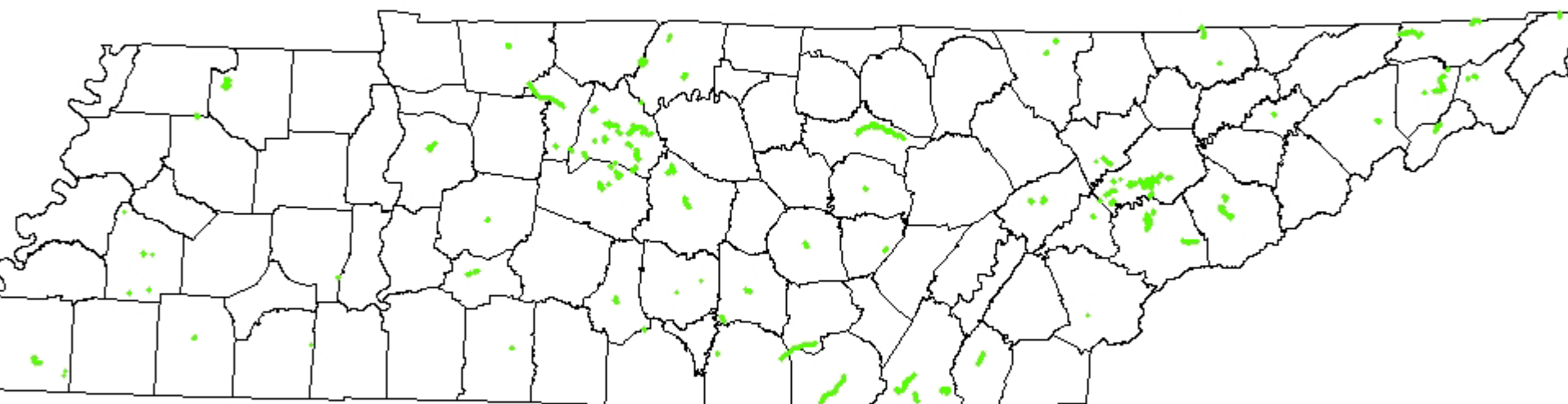


# Using GIS

- GIS – Geographic Information System
- GIS can be used as a tool for many different functions. Trail design and layout is only one of those functions.
- GIS has Zoom In and Zoom Out features
- Take advantage of the information gained from aerial photographs.

# Tennessee Greenway Trails

## Hardsurfaced Bike and Pedestrian



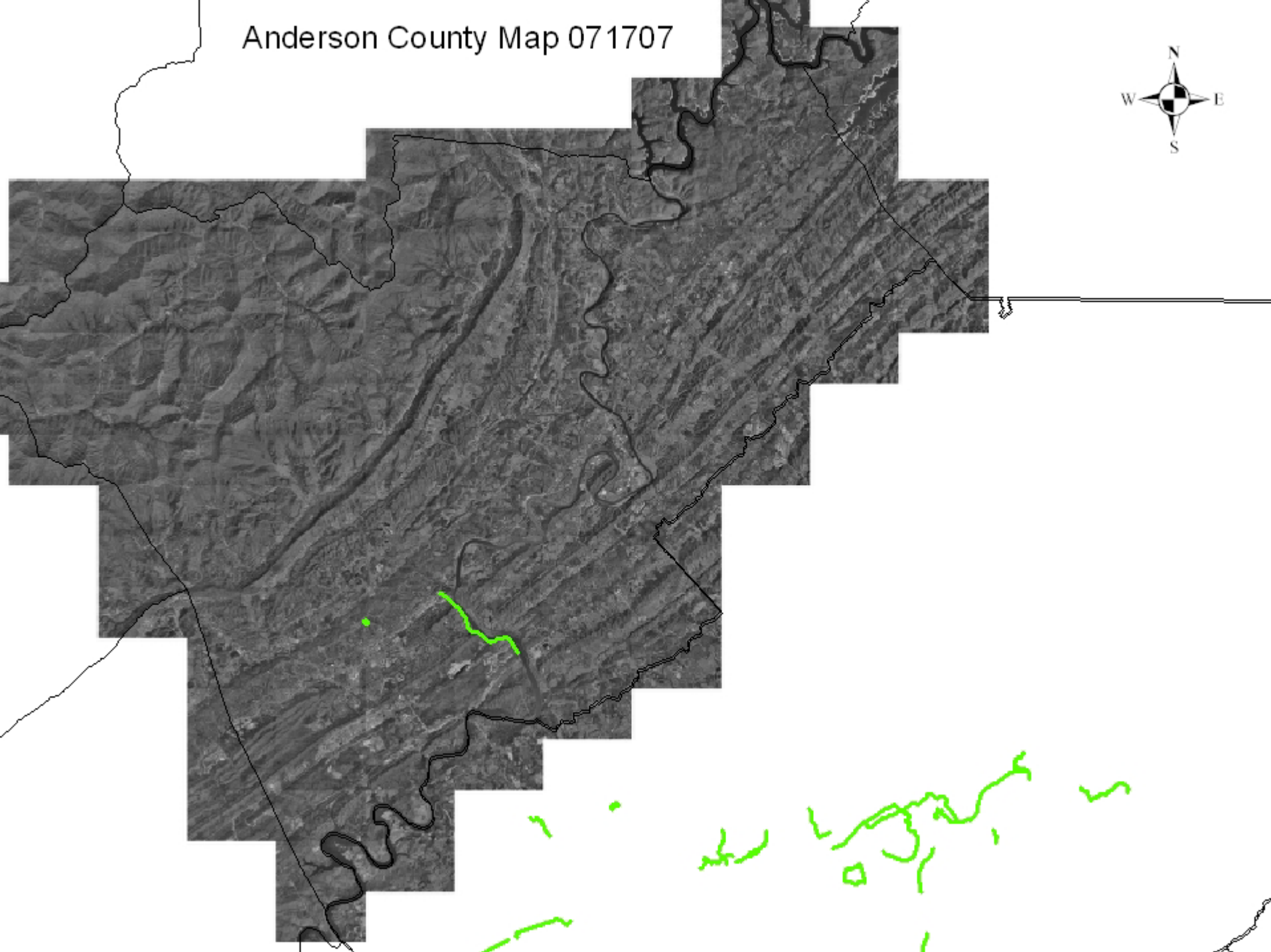
### Legend

Statewide\_Greenway

CDS CNTY BNDRY



# Anderson County Map 071707















# Technical Assistance Resources

- n **TDEC-Recreation Educational Services Division**
- n **National Park Service's RTCA Program**
- n **TN Regional Development Districts**
- n **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS)**
- n **Tennessee Valley Authority**
- n **Urban Forestry Council/Dept. of Ag.**
- n **Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D)**



# Funding Opportunities

- SAFTEA-LU Transportation Enhancements

**TDOT administers over \$15 million annually to local governments. Funds non motorized transportation projects for pedestrian and bicycle trails. Deadline November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- Safe Routes to Schools

**This new program is focused on walking and biking to school. TDOT administers \$1.5 million annually available. Deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>.**



# Funding Opportunities

(continued)

## n Local Park and Recreation Fund (LPRF)

**TDEC administers this program on a 2 year grant cycle to local governments. Can fund land acquisition and recreational trail projects.**

## n Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Fund

**TDEC administers this program on a 2 year grant cycle to government agencies. Can fund land acquisition and recreational trail projects such as equestrian, hiking, mountain biking, along with motorized trails. Also funds trailhead facilities like parking areas, water sources and restrooms.**





# Funding Opportunities

(continued)

## nLand & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

**Legislation is currently pending in Congress that would fund a state and local grant program to acquire and develop outdoor recreation areas, including greenway and trail projects.**



# For more resources, go to:

- ✓ **TDEC, Recreation Educational Services (RES)**  
<http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation>
- ✓ **RES Greenways and Trails Program**  
<http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/greentrails.shtml>
- ✓ **ADA Accessibility Guidelines:**  
<http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/presentations/>



**For more Information**

**Contact Bob Richards**

**Greenways and Trails**

**Coordinator**

**615-532-0753**

**or Robert .richards@ state.tn.us**